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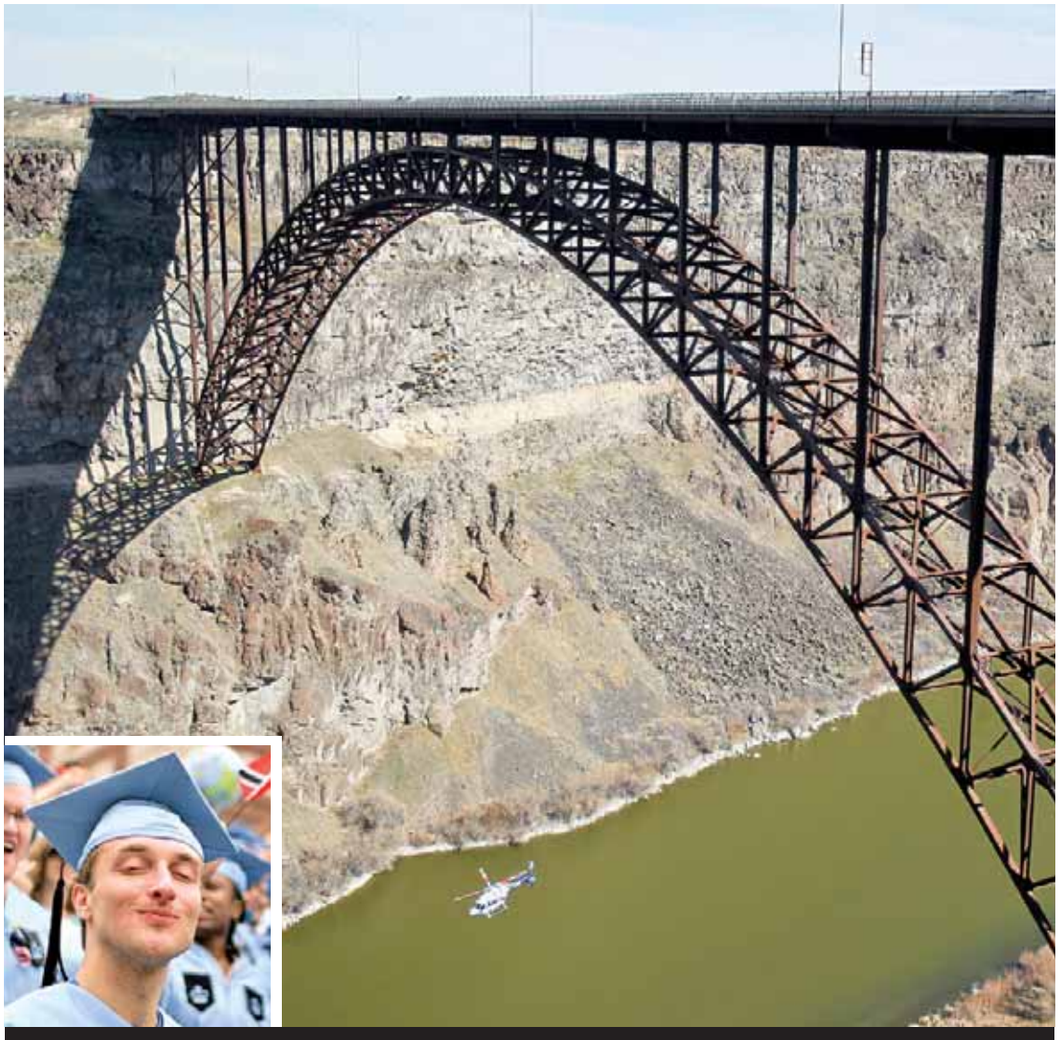

'IF I DIE BASE JUMPING ...'

Thirty-two-year-old Bryan Turner, inset, who died Monday after BASE jumping off Idaho's Perrine Bridge, sent a letter to friends before he entered the sport instructing them, in the event that he died, how to honour his legacy and do their best to end extreme poverty around the world. Story, page 5. DREW NASH/MAGICVALLEY.COM; INSET: COURTESY TIM INGLIS

Breastfeeding passenger told to cover up

Nursing. B.C.'s Kristen Hilderman is fuming after she says a flight attendant embarrassed her while she fed her child on a plane

A Burnaby woman says she is embarrassed after she felt a United Airlines flight attendant shamed her while she breastfed her young son on an airplane.

Kristen Hilderman, who detailed the incident in a letter posted on Twitter, was on a flight from Houston to Vancouver on Sunday evening when a flight attendant named Keith approached her.

She said the flight attendant asker her husband loudly if they were together before tossing a blanket at him and saying, "Then here, help her out."

"He wanted me to cover myself," Hilderman said. "I went beet red and the passengers around us stared with their mouths agape."

She said she asked the flight attendant what he meant but he ignored her.

Because she was on an airplane, Hilderman said she didn't want to make a scene and get into trouble so she folded up the blanket, put it on the floor in the aisle and continued to feed her son.

Before landing, she said the plane was diverted to Seattle because of fog. When Hilderman boarded the plane again, she said the flight attendant had placed a blanket folded up on her seat waiting for her.

"Not a single other seat," she said. "Just mine."

Hilderman said the flight attendant's actions left her feeling "embarrassed, uncomfortable and self-conscious."

"I am so furious about this entire incident," she said. "I've been breastfeeding my son in myriad public places since he was born, and never has anyone made me feel so uncomfortable and ashamed for feeding my baby without putting a cover over his head."

Since she posted the letter about her ordeal on Twitter, it has been widely shared online and sparked international media coverage.

In an email Wednesday, United Airlines spokeswoman Jennifer Dohm said the airline had spoken with Hilderman and offered an apology after it learned of her experience.

Dohm said United Airlines welcomes nursing mothers on board its flights.

"We ask that crew members do their best to ensure their comfort and safety as they do with all customers," she said.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

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NEWS

Transportation

Plebiscite a chance to address climate change: Suzuki

Celebrity scientist David Suzuki believes a "Yes" vote in the spring plebiscite is a simple way for residents to address climate change.

Speaking at a telephone town hall meeting hosted by the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation Tuesday evening, Suzuki lamented the fact the debate over a proposed 0.5 per cent Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax has centred an anti-tax sentiment and mistrust.

"In all the discussion that I've heard on the radio about the new tax to improve our transportation system, it's all been about taxes. 'No, I don't want taxes,'" he said. "And no one has really talked about what to me is the most important issue, which is climate change."

The David Suzuki Foundation was one of the earliest supporters of the mayors' proposed 10-year, $7.5-billion regional transit plan.

The environmental organization's CEO, Peter Robinson, said the plan would reduce the transportation sector's greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 15 per cent, even with a projected million more residents living in Metro Vancouver by 2045. On the flip side, the foundation says no transit improvements and increased congestion would result in a 10 per cent increase in emissions.

"All of the indications are if we don't radically address the issue of climate change, economically it is going to be absolutely devastating," said Suzuki.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Marijuana is grown at a medical marijuana grow-op in Maple Ridge in 2014. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

More U.S. states jumping aboard pot train: Expert

Legalization. Law prof testifies at legal challenge of Canada's medical marijuana law

NEAL HALL
vancouver@metronews.ca

A U.S. legal expert told a federal Court judge Wednesday that he expects dozens of states to jump aboard the legalization train, with dozens considering new laws to regulate marijuana.

"I think we'll see more states in the future that will legalize medical and recreational marijuana," Robert Mikos, a law professor at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, said in federal court, which is hearing a legal challenge of Canada's medical marijuana law.

He said there is a trend in the U.S. to regulate and tax the marijuana industry.

In the past, before new laws were brought in, marijuana was like the "wild west," he said.

Mikos said 35 states have legalized medical marijuana and other states such as Washington, Oregon and Alaska have also legalized recreational use.

In Alaska and Oregon, for example, it's legal for a person over 21 to possess small amounts of pot and cultivate between four and six plants marijuana plants, he said.

He added that Washington, D.C., also recently legalized medical and recreational marijuana, including personal cultivation.

Under federal law, Mikos said, marijuana is still illegal in the U.S., but the federal Department of Justice has largely turned a blind eye to medical marijuana users.

"Different states have tried different things," he told the court.

"There's no model legislation states have adopted."

He said in some states, there are commercial marijuana growers to supply users, but the pot cannot be mailed because it is illegal; instead, private courier services are used.

Other states have allowed storefront dispensaries and in other states the only source of pot is growing your own.

Four medical marijuana plaintiffs in the proposed class-action lawsuit claim the new law, which abolished personal cultivation, violates Section 7 of the Canada's Charter of Rights.

The judge hearing the case earlier granted an injunction, allowing the plaintiffs to continue growing their own pot until the trial reaches a decision.

The judge will finish hearing evidence on Friday.

Final arguments are set for April 30 to May 1.

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Surrey. Police believe 3 shootings are linked

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Three targeted shootings in the span of 19 hours are likely linked to each other, according to Surrey RCMP.

Mounties first learned of the shooting spree early Monday, when a 20-year-old Surrey man suffering from gunshot wounds was dropped off at a local hospital at approximately 4 a.m.

Police were called to the hospital by staff but were unable to find out where or why the shooting occurred.

The victim was treated and released from hospital.

Later that day, before 6 p.m., police located an abandoned vehicle that looked like it had been involved in a shooting incident.

Investigators believe it may be connected to the first shooting, and seized the vehicle for further investigation.

An hour later, police were contacted by the British Columbia Ambulance Service regarding a shooting near 127th Street and 78th Avenue, where another 20-year-old man was shot and transported to hospital. He, too, was released from hospital after receiving treatment.

At 11 p.m., Surrey RCMP received multiple reports of gunshots fired a few blocks away, at 128th Street and 76th Avenue.

When officers arrived, they were told by witnesses that four dark-coloured vehicles fled the scene shortly after the gunshots were fired.

No one appeared to be injured in that shooting, but evidence was recovered from the scene.

"All of the shootings are thought at this time to be targeted and linked to one another," said Surrey RCMP spokesman Sgt. Dale Carr in a statement Wednesday.

"This type of activity is deeply concerning to the Surrey RCMP and the community."

Quoted

"This type of activity is deeply concerning..."

Surrey RCMP spokesman Sgt. Dale Carr

Transit safety. SeaBus shut down by a Walkman

Transit officials say a suspicious item that shut down Metro Vancouver's SeaBus during rush hour was actually just an old Walkman.

The main transit line was halted and its North Vancouver terminal evacuated for nearly four hours Tuesday after a potential threat was reported at about 5 p.m.

Transit Police spokeswoman Anne Drennan says a robot was sent in by the RCMP explosives unit to investigate the item found under one of the ferry's seats. The item turned out to be a Walkman.

Drennan says the electronic music device turned out to be inert but was "very suspicious looking."

The SeaBus has resumed its normal operations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paramedics airlift Bryan Turner, 32, of British Columbia onto a helicopter. Turner died Monday while BASE jumping in Idaho. DREW NASH/MAGICVALLEY.COM

Jumper asked friends to carry on his legacy

'Such a leader.' Project that man started as a student helped African villagers get tools

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

Before Bryan Turner started BASE jumping two years ago, he wrote a letter to his closest friends in the event that he died, instructing them to use his passing as a force to help end world poverty.

"If I die BASE jumping, please, and I cannot emphasize this enough, do everything you can to help end extreme poverty by 2030 and do your utmost to achieve sustainable development beyond that," he wrote. "Don't waste time being upset about my dying; be upset about the seven million kids that die every year and don't even get a chance to live."

The 32-year-old, who was leaping off Idaho's Perrine Bridge on Monday with a group of friends, was killed when his parachute failed to open, sending him plummeting 148 metres into Snake River. Turner survived the fall but died of his injuries after he was airlifted to a local hospital, according to the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office.

Turner, who was originally from B.C., was living in New York at the time.

Toronto's Zahra Aldünia, a friend of Turner's while both were students at Carleton University in Ottawa, said he "was just such an exceptional, unbelievable human being."

"He was such an inspiration, such a leader," she said. "You met him and you immediately felt his impact."

While at Carleton, Turner founded Students to End Extreme Poverty, a group that campaigned to add a $6 levy to their annual student fees that would be given each year to Millennium Promise's Millennium Villages project. The project, which provides people in Africa with tools, has raised over $600,000.

"That's one small little piece of his legacy that's having an impact and saving thousands of lives even now," said close friend Tim Inglis of Ottawa.

After graduating from Carleton, Turner did his master's degree at Columbia University in New York. He then started working for the United Nations and dreamed of helping to end extreme poverty by 2030.

"What all of us hope is that we see that dream come true," Inglis said.

Quoted

"If I die BASE jumping, please ... do everything you can to help end extreme poverty."

Bryan Turner, 32, who was killed leaping off the Perrine Bridge in Idaho Monday when his parachute failed to open

Frenetic Fringe without the festival as Year-Round Fringe continues

Entertainment. Two shows run from March 17 to 29 at Studio 1398

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

TJ Dawe's Marathon is part of the Year-Round Fringe. ANITA LEE/MY CITY PHOTOS

Fancy some Fringe, friends?

Don't be alarmed — you haven't slept through the summer. It's merely the second season of Year-Round Fringe.

And, hey, if you missed the Fringe Festival last fall, here's your chance to catch some of that frenetic Fringe goodness, which by the way goes wonderfully with a little side of spring break.

Sadly, you've already missed One-Man Star Wars Trilogy. Or, more accurately, I did. It ended Feb. 19.

Sorry about that.

But I'm here to make amends by telling you about two — TWO! — other fantastic Fringe shows that you're going to want to see. Or, you know, see again. (See fall Fringe Festival reference, above.)

Dawson Nichols' Virtual Soltaire is a dystopian tale that explores the darker side of technology: isolation, disconnection, and addiction; while TJ Dawe's Marathon is a coming-of-age tale about his time spent as an awkward high-school track-and-field athlete, his relationship with his dad and his journey as a performer.

Both awesome shows run from March 17 to 29 at Studio 1398. Marathon is at 7 p.m. Virtual Soltaire at 9. More information is available at VancouverFringe.com.

Vancouver International Dance Festival: VIDF continues until March 28. Par B. Leux's Snakeskins starts tonight at the Roundhouse (until Saturday). It's choreographed and performed by Montreal's Benoit Lachambre (accompanied on stage by dancer Daniele Albanese and musician Hahn Rowe). Some interesting props in this one: plenty of rope, a giant jigsaw puzzle, and metal scaffolding. Judging by publicity photos, there probably will be some lucha libre masks, too. More information at VIDF.ca.

Green Porno: If you've ever wanted to see Isabella Rossellini live on stage discussing and acting out the reproductive habits of marine animals and insects, perhaps you should purchase tickets to Green Porno Live on Stage, a one-night only performance presented by the Italian Cultural Centre and PuSh International Performing Arts Festival. It's reportedly both scientifically accurate and very entertaining. And it's for a good cause! "The secret to Green Porno is that it allows us to laugh but also communicate true scientific information," says Rossellini. "Because of what I learned in doing the research I felt strongly that there needed to be an added environmental element to really inform people how delicate the futures of these creatures are." Saturday, April 25 at the Vancouver Playhouse. Tickets, $55-75, on sale now at Ticketstonight.ca.

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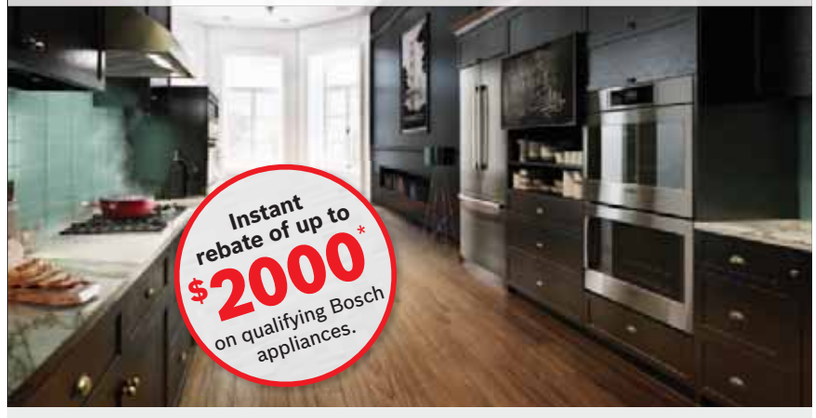

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Officer gave suspects chance to change their minds

Court. Undercover officer drove couple from hotel room to ferry terminal but told them he could turn around and take them home

An undercover officer gave a British Columbia couple a last-minute chance to abandon their alleged plan to detonate pressure-cooker bombs at the provincial legislature on Canada Day, their trial heard Wednesday.

John Nuttall and Amanda Korody's trial heard the officer drove the couple from a Vancouver-area hotel room to a ferry terminal on June 30, 2013, the day before the Crown says their alleged plot was set to unfold.

In covertly recorded audio played for the jury, the officer, who is posing as an Arab businessman, tells the married couple that instead of driving them to the terminal, he can turn around and drop them off at home.

"Go to the ferry, brother," Nuttall replies firmly.

But Nuttall also gives Korody the chance to leave. Nuttall tells his wife that she could give him some money, he could give her the house key and she could go home. Korody had expressed second thoughts about the alleged plan earlier that day, but she declines Nuttall's offer in the car and says she wants to go. Nuttall tells Korody she means "more than the whole world and everything in it" to him, and the group turns their attention to the pressure-cooker bombs. Both Korody and Nuttall have pleaded not guilty to four terrorism-related charges. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terror suspects John Nuttall and Amanda Korody THE CANADIAN PRESS

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YVR. Airport voted North America's best for 6th year

Vancouver International Airport has been voted top airport in North America for six consecutive years by the Skytrax World Airport Awards.

It was the first time in the history of the awards that an airport has retained the top ranking for six years in a row, Vancouver airport officials said Wednesday.

Known as the passenger's-choice award in the travel industry, the 2015 award was voted on by 13 million passengers across 550 airports in 112 countries. The survey measures 39 dimensions of the airport experience, including check-in to border-clearance efficiency, signage, transportation availability, design, layout, shopping, service and dining options.

"This recognition for a sixth year in a row is a testament to all the people who contribute to our shared success," Craig Richmond, president and CEO of the Vancouver Airport Authority, said in a statement.

"I want to acknowledge and thank our community, passengers, partners and the 24,000 people who work and volunteer at YVR. We are both proud and humbled and will continue to collectively care for all our customers while connecting B.C. to the world."

YVR was also named the best airport in the 10-20 million passenger category but only ranked 11th when put up against the best airports in the world, down from 9th last year.

Singapore Changi was voted the World's Best Airport for 2015. Fairmont Vancouver Airport was voted best airport hotel in North America. NEAL HALL/FOR METRO

Flights

Vancouver's airport handled 19 million passengers last year. Fifty-three airlines serve YVR, flying to more than 110 non-stop destinations worldwide.

Langley

Stolen mail found in storage locker

Langley RCMP say they've found between 8,000 and 10,000 pieces of stolen mail hidden in a storage locker of an apartment complex.

A 36-year-old woman, a tenant of the building, was arrested and faces at least one count of identity theft.

When police executed the search warrant on the locker, they also found stolen identity cards, credit cards, computers, cellphones and data-storage devices.

The accused, Sarah Lea Arnet, is scheduled to appear in provincial court on Thursday. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Walnut Grove

Teen charged in string of burglaries

Langley RCMP say a 19-year-old is charged with five counts of breaking-and-entering in connection with a string of burglaries that took place in late 2014 but remains at large. The incidents, all in the Walnut Grove area, happened between Oct. 2 and Oct. 21 and involved breaking into homes overnight while the owners were sleeping.

Greyszen Beszedes was arrested at the end of the crime spree after he allegedly woke up a homeowner during a break-in. However, RCMP believe Beszedes has relocated to Ontario since his release, and warrants for his arrest have been issued. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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Alberta MLA faces bribery allegation

Edmonton.
Sworn statements make claims about PC incumbent

JEREMY NOLAIS
& RYAN TUMILTY
edmonton@metronews.ca

The Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PCAA) is investigating irregularities in the nomination process of an Edmonton constituency amid allegations that the incumbent MLA attempted to mislead a challenger's supporters and offer a bribe through a proxy in order to undermine the challenger's campaign.

On Monday, Metro confirmed an ongoing probe by the PCAA into the nomination process in Edmonton-Ellerslie, a riding currently held by Naresh Bhardwaj.

Metro made repeated attempts to contact Bhardwaj, the associate minister for persons with disabilities, including asking him in person at the Alberta Legislature on Wednesday to respond and supplying him with a written list of questions regarding the allegations.

He would only say: "I think anything related to the nomination should be directed to Kelly Charlebois," the PC party's executive director.

The allegations against Bhardwaj stem from Edmonton-Ellerslie challenger Balraj Manhas' claim that he was called just days before the Feb. 21 nomination ballot and told by riding committee representatives to withdraw or be publicly disqualified on the basis that his nomination papers were invalid.

Metro has spoken to two of Manhas' supporters and received copies of their notarized statements. They claim Bhardwaj or others acting on his behalf attempted to have them sign pre-drafted affidavits claiming their names had improperly appeared on the challenger's nomination papers.

In one instance, Balbir Sidhu claims he was offered a $10,000 bribe paid either in Canada or in India by others working on Bhardwaj's behalf in exchange for claiming his signature and those of other family members should not have been on Manhas' papers.

Sidhu said he outright refused.

"I thought, 'Why would he do this?'" Sidhu said in an interview Tuesday. "Whatever the public wants for this area is supposed to be what happens."

Bhardwaj remained in a nearby car while the conversation with the proxy took place, Sidhu said.

In the other instance, Bilal Ali claims his family was approached late at night by three men, including Bhardwaj, and told to sign a document that he initially believed was to confirm their support for Manhas. It was only later, Ali said Tuesday, that he realized his signature was being used to run Manhas out of the race.

Ali said in an interview that three other members of his family had also supported Manhas and all signed the document allegedly offered by Bhardwaj.

None of the aforementioned allegations have been proven.

PC party representatives refused to delve into the specifics of their ongoing investigation Tuesday and again Wednesday, even after being informed of Metro's possession of the documents.

A spokesperson said Wednesday the party "confirms that there are many layers to this investigation" but declined to speak in more detail.

Instead, the party referred to comments made Monday when Metro first reported about potential issues with the nomination race.

At that time, Charlebois would only say that the party was looking into the race.

"The whole matter is still considered under review by the party," he said.

Sidhu, meanwhile, said he hopes for a fulsome investigation.

In his sworn statement, he directly addressed Premier Jim Prentice.

"For God Sake Jim, please save Alberta from such corrupt inducements or bribes to kill party soul of fairness," Sidhu wrote.

Edmonton-Ellerslie PC MLA Naresh Bhardwaj
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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Military pallbearers from the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command carry the flag-draped casket of Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron on Tuesday, at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Trenton, Ont. Doiron was killed in a friendly fire incident in Iraq last Friday. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iraq troop deployment will not grow: Minister

Military. Government says it has no plans to send more troops, but mum on if mission profile could change

The Harper government isn't planning to increase the size of its special forces contingent in northern Iraq if Canada's combat mission in the country is extended, Defence Minister Jason Kenney said Wednesday.

Kenney was more circumspect about whether the scope of operations — limited so far to advising and assisting Kurdish peshmerga forces — will change.

"The government has not yet taken a final decision on potential renewal or extension of the mission, and so I'll have to ask the member to wait until that decision is taken and we will certainly report it to Parliament in the form of a motion," Kenney said in answer to a question from NDP defence critic Jack Harris. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ferguson. Chief resigns after scathing report

The police chief in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Mo., resigned Wednesday in the wake of a scathing Justice Department report prompted by the fatal shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer.

The city said in a statement it reached a mutual separation agreement with Chief Thomas Jackson, who will get a severance payment and health insurance for a year. Lt. Col. Al Eickhoff will become acting chief March 19 while the city searches for a replacement.

Jackson had previously resisted calls by protesters and some of Missouri's top elected leaders to step down over his handling of the August shooting of Michael Brown and the weeks of sometimes-violent protests that followed.

Jackson becomes the sixth employee to resign or be fired after the U.S. Department of Justice last week issued a report that cleared Officer Darren Wilson of civil rights charges in the shooting but found a profit-driven court system and widespread racial bias in the city police department.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida

All 11 presumed dead in crash

Human remains and helicopter parts were recovered Wednesday after seven Marines and four soldiers crashed in heavy fog during military training in Florida.

All 11 service members were presumed dead after the Army National Guard's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter went down offshore, a Pentagon official said.

President Barack Obama spoke with the military leaders involved and expressed his condolences to the families before saying he's confident of a detailed investigation, said his spokesman, Josh Earnest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi soldiers sweep into ISIL-held city of Tikrit

In this image taken from video, a soldier fires from behind a building in Tikrit, Iraq, on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq. Allied militiamen breach one of extremists' key strongholds

Iraqi soldiers and allied Shiite militiamen launched a two-front offensive in the ISIL-held city of Tikrit on Wednesday to squeeze extremists out of Saddam Hussein's hometown.

Explosions and heavy gunfire echoed through Tikrit, a key way station for Iraqi forces trying to expel the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, who hold roughly a third of the country and neighbouring Syria. The offensive also will serve as a major crucible for Iraqi forces, which collapsed under the extremists' initial offensive last year and now face street-by-street fighting in one of ISIL's biggest strongholds.

Allied Iraqi forces first entered the city through its northern Qadisiyya neighbourhood, according to video obtained by The Associated Press.

Strategic move

- **Taking Tikrit would open a supply line for a future operation to besiege Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city that remains under ISIL control.**
- **U.S. military officials have said a mission to retake Mosul likely will begin in April or May and involve up to 25,000 Iraqi troops.**

Authorities offered no immediate casualty figures, though Iran's state-run Press TV satellite channel reported that a mortar attack wounded one of its cameramen there.

Later Wednesday, allied forces also swept into Tikrit in a pincer movement to squeeze out militants, though some suggested many already fled in the face of the advance, codenamed "At your service, prophet of Allah." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Helpful animals have a nose for explosives work

Bomb disposal.
Animals' sharp senses can keep them and human handlers alive in minefields

In this photo taken in June 2013, an elephant called Chishuru is rewarded by David, left, on the target mat for having completely a successful scent trial as colleague Sugar sits on top, in Bela-Bela, north of Pretoria, South Africa.
GRAHAM ALEXANDER/ADVENTURES WITH ELEPHANTS, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Humans have looked to a variety of animals to help detect explosives.

Research in South Africa showing that elephants can identify explosives by smell follows a long tradition of such experiments.

Dogs are commonly used to sniff out explosives, contraband and other illegal items. A group called APOPO had such good results with trained rats that it has deployed them to detect mines in Angola and Mozambique and uses them in Tanzania to screen people for tuberculosis by evaluating sputum samples.

The U.S. military is a major funder of the elephant research.

"There's never an intention that we're going to use elephants on the battlefield," said Stephen Lee, head scientist at the U.S. Army Research Office. The goal, he added, is to learn how an elephant smells and incorporate that knowledge into electronic sensors.

Some animals have turned minefields into "de facto wildlife preserves," mostly avoiding mines in areas where people fear to tread, commentator Michael Moore wrote in January in his blog, Landmines in Africa. He cited leopards on the border between Iran and Iraq, which fought in the 1980s; penguins in the Falkland Islands, where Britain fought Argentina in 1982; and wolves in the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria.

"Landmines do not protect habitats, merely demonstrate the importance of guaranteeing safe and secure habitats for all species," Moore wrote.

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Businesses expect a slower Stampede

Corporate Calgary. Mood to celebrate subdued over the lower price of oil

This was supposed to be a year that the "ranch" — a cowboyed-up parking lot in the downtown core where pancakes are flipped and beer is poured — would be booked up again for the Calgary Stampede. But then oil prices fell by more than half.

With three-and-a-half months to go before the 10-day festival kicks off, caterer Paddy Sorrenti figures six of the 10 events that had been booked are going ahead but some might still be scrapped.

It's a similar story for David Howard, whose company The Event Group gets about 10 per cent of its business from Stampede. He says 40 per cent of his clients have cancelled their parties altogether this year, walking away from thousands of dollars in deposits.

But while some oil companies are scrapping their Stampede parties, they're holding other types of events for staff and customer appreciation — charitable concerts or keynote speakers.

It's not just about dollars and cents. Companies are wondering if holding Stampede shindigs gives off the right impression, said Howard.

Paul Vickers with Penny Lane Entertainment Group — owners of Cowboys, the bar known for its Stampede-Ground festivities — said he's not expecting to see a dent in business. He said the slowdown appears to be hitting the higher-end, and Cowboys caters to the $5-beer crowd.

Corporate clients are spending on Stampede — they're just spending more wisely, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC. U.S. firm fined for scorning do-not-call rules

The U.S.-based company responsible for those pesky calls proclaiming that you've won a cruise has been fined $200,000 for breaking telemarketing rules.

In addition to paying the penalty, Florida-based Consolidated Travel Holdings Group Inc. has agreed to stop making unsolicited telemarketing calls telling Canadians they have won a free cruise to the Bahamas in exchange for answering a survey.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission launched its investigation after hearing complaints from Canadians.

The federal regulator worked with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission to investigate the complaints.

The CRTC said Caribbean Cruise Line, which is owned by Consolidated Travel Holdings Group Inc., used an automatic dialing-announcing device to offer cruises to Canadians, including many who have their phone number registered on the national do not call list.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFU report: Canada set to lose generation of farmers

A board member for the National Farmers Union says without laws that support decent farm livelihoods, Canada could lose its next generation of farmers. Matt Gehl, board member for Saskatchewan, says the country could end up with something like "the serfdom many of our ancestors tried to escape."

On Tuesday, the NFU released an update to its 2010 report on corporate farmland buyup, farm debt and input financing. The new report, called Losing Our Grip — 2015 Update, looks at increasing corporate control of farmland and the acceleration of farm debt, now approaching $80 billion.

"Without better farm policy and laws with real teeth, absentee landlords seeking to make the highest possible return for their shareholders will be calling the shots," says NFU president Jan Slomp. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Korean Air. Flight attendant sues over nut rage

A flight attendant who says she was living her dream by working for Korean Air is now suing the airline and its infamous nut rage executive, claiming the bizarre onboard tantrum ruined her career.

Kim Do Hee, the flight attendant, is seeking compensation through a trial in New York City after she was verbally and physically attacked by Korean Air heiress Cho Hyun-ah, according to a statement on Wednesday by two American law firms.

It is the first civil lawsuit connected with the nut rage case, which infuriated South Koreans and hogged global headlines. Last month, a South Korean court sentenced Cho, 40, to one year in prison for violating aviation security laws, using violence against a flight attendant and other charges. Cho, who is the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, has appealed the ruling from prison.

The summons filed Monday said Cho screamed obscenities at Kim and hit and threatened her.

She was also pressured to lie to government investigators to cover up the incident and to appear in public with Cho "as part of an orchestrated effort to try and rehabilitate Cho's public image," the summons said.

Kim is seeking compensatory damages and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the trial.

Kim said Korean Air was her dream job since she was a high school student, but after false rumours spread on the Internet about her accepting a professorship in exchange for lying to investigators, she could not return to work as a flight attendant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ban on selfie sticks grows at tourist sites

The Chateau de Versailles, outside Paris, and the National Gallery in London have joined the growing list of global tourist attractions that have banned "selfie sticks." The devices are used by visitors such as American tourists Chris Baker and Jennifer Hinson, pictured here in front of the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, to improve snapshots, but critics say the practice is obnoxious and potentially dangerous. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Rental cars

Two firms accused of false advertising

The Competition Bureau has accused rental car companies Avis and Budget of false or misleading advertising.

The agency has filed an application with the Competition Tribunal seeking $30 million in administrative penalties and refunds for consumers.

The bureau alleges Avis and Budget advertise prices that are not attainable due to additional fees imposed during the rental.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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VOICES

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS UNITE!

Research projects led by those outside academia aren't supported, published or taken seriously, but that should change

STEPHANIE ORFORD
readers@metronews.ca

Tourists take pictures of a humpback whale. Amateur whale watchers can report sightings as part of the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network, but the vast majority of citizen scientists today just do the grunt work. RODRIGO BUENDIA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

You don't need a PhD to have a great idea, so why do you need a PhD to publish it?

Many of us have ideas that, given research and a platform to share it, could change the way we live. More people outside academia are getting their hands dirty with scientific research.

A few weeks ago, the first-ever Citizen Science Meeting was held at Cornell University. But right now, research projects led by citizen scientists aren't supported, published or taken seriously.

Scientific research needs to go public.

A citizen scientist is anyone in the public who participates in scientific study. You could be one. Numerous projects around the world already see academic scientists tap citizen scientists to collect their data — like crowdfunding, but for information.

Amateur whale watchers report sightings as part of the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network. The University of Calgary-based Aurorasaurus project tracks the aurora through Twitter.

But the vast majority of citizen scientists today just do the grunt work. They don't contribute ideas. Academic institutions and publications still control much of what research is pursued, funded and recognized. Only a select few can currently participate in scientific discovery and be recognized for it.

Many of the world's greatest inventions and discoveries were made outside the walls of academia.

Working out of his shop, a Dutch eyeglasses maker named Hans Lippershey invented the technology behind the telescope, which Galileo used to discover craters on the moon and confirm that the Earth orbits the sun. German goldsmith Johannes Gutenberg invented the movable-type printing press, which put books in the hands of regular Europeans, not just the aristocracy and the church.

Today, however, peer-reviewed academic journals are the gatekeepers of what science is accepted, talked about and built upon, and right now, for the most part, only researchers from academic institutions are able to publish there.

There just aren't supports in Canada that allow citizen scientists conducting their own experiments or studies to get peer reviewed and to publish their findings, says David Lawrie, program director of Canada's Citizen Scientists, a group of researchers formed out of Toronto in 2003 who collect data about the health of the Rouge River watershed.

Plenty of tools are out there for citizen scientists. Science crowdfunding sites like petridish.org and experiment.com help generate funds, and there are a couple citizen science journals, but the citizen science sea change won't happen until ordinary people can get better recognition for their research.

"For citizen scientists, it takes a lot of time and effort to publish in a journal for essentially almost no reward," says Lawrie.

We also need more incentives to encourage people from more diverse backgrounds to get involved in researching and shaping what we know about the world. They need things like grants, awards, prizes, the honour of being published.

Lawrie would like to see more monetary support for citizen scientists and "a very effective platform to help disseminate the information to the broader public."

Encouraging citizen research would generate more discoveries, and they would happen faster. More diverse people would be able to pursue more diverse topics that are currently underrepresented in academia.

Thanks to data collection by citizen scientists, the eBird network has millions of sightings that have helped focus conservation efforts. Think of how much more we could accomplish with a world full of scientists.

One criticism of citizen research is that reliability and validity of the research can't be controlled as it is in academia.

So let's find ways of fixing that: peer-review panels to vet the quality of citizen research; ethics boards that make sure their projects are above board; a government granting body that endorses and supports promising projects; a central resource where citizen scientists can find out how to conduct research with rigour so they can produce meaningful results.

Cheap, easily accessible technologies are making it easy to collect, analyze and communicate information.

Let's use them to unleash the public brain.

Stephanie Orford is a writer based in Vancouver.

Why being strapped to our tech may actually set us free

MELISSA DUNNE
readers@metronews.ca

I have a confession to make: I want an Apple Watch — badly.

Ever since Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook finally officially revealed the prices and release date of the trio of smart watches Monday, there has been a stream of haters calling the latest offering from the Cupertino, Calif., company stupid, gauche and ridiculously overpriced.

A Gawker writer actually called on readers to take a pledge to not sleep with anyone who dons the gadget. A certain Metro web editor seemed horrified to hear I wanted one. As Taylor Swift sings: Haters gonna hate, hate, hate.

Sure, I'll admit: no one needs an Apple Watch — but then, no one needs a smartphone either, and most of us have one.

While I personally like the design of the watches, some people think they're clunky and weird, and I concede it may be difficult to not look like a lemming or a fashion victim wearing one.

And, uh, yes, the watches are overpriced. The Apple Watch Edition (18-karat gold) will start at a heart-stopping $13,000, the Apple Watch starts at $699 and the Apple Watch Sport is the cheapest option, starting at $449 in Canada.

Yet, despite all that, I still desperately want one. As a runner, I love the idea of having GPS, a heart-rate sensor and an accelerometer — as well as access to Wi-Fi. I'm well aware that the numbers these devices spit out are far from perfect, but it's still nice to be able to get an idea of how hard I'm working when I'm working out.

And as a woman I love that I can now free myself of the tyranny of carrying around so much stuff everywhere I go.

I mean, the watch tells you the time without having to pull out your phone and it's strapped to your wrist so it's harder to lose.

And while you still need your phone nearby, you can pay for things with the watch and check your Twitter feed on it. You can even use it to call a cab. What can't it do? Don't answer that; it's a rhetorical question.

I seem to be swimming against the stream on this one, but I think now is the time for an Apple Watch. Well, not now, now. I'll wait for the kinks to be worked out and the prices to come down (fingers crossed).

Then I'll sport my watch with pride.

Melissa Dunne is a freelance writer based in Toronto.

metro

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SCENE 2

Shad's here to give you all he can

Juno award-winning rapper Shad faces the shadow of Jian Ghomeshi when he takes over hosting duties of Q on April 20. Ghomeshi, who helped make Q popular among younger listeners, was fired from the CBC four months ago. So, how will Shad match up against the former host?

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
Metro News in Toronto

Ego

Shad: Friends describe him as confident, but also modest and humble, almost to a fault. "He's never struck me as a person that's seeking or needing the validation of others," said Seattle hip-hop radio host and friend, Jonathan Moore. In a CBC news story on the announcement, Shad downplayed his own prominence, calling his new role "an honour" and praising the producers as a "brilliant, passionate team."

Ghomeshi: In the wake of Ghomeshi's firing and allegations of sexual assault, former staffers have come out to charge Ghomeshi with having an outsized ego. Former staff have described Ghomeshi as an oppressive and perfectionist boss, whose will was the law.

Radio experience

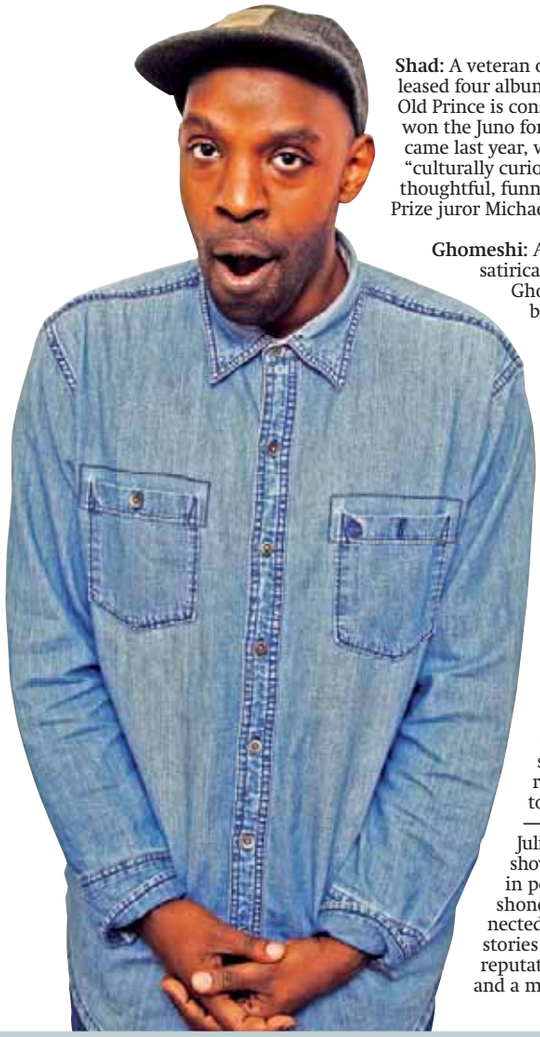
Shad: He's had a lot of time behind the microphone, but in terms of hosting a radio show, Shad's main efforts were as a guest host for Q in January for a week.

Ghomeshi: He had a number of smaller broadcasting gigs before launching Q in 2007, including on CBC TV as the host of the pop culture program Play, and later as the host of a series of music shows on CBC Radio One, including a stint on Sounds Like Canada.

Accolades

Shad: The musician has been racking up praise for his music for the past 10 years. He won the 2011 Juno award for Rap Recording of the Year, beating out Drake, and his albums have been nominated for other Junos, MuchMusic Video Awards and the Polaris Prize.

Ghomeshi: As a musician, Ghomeshi's career was less decorated. But as host of Q, he won the Gold Award for best talk-show host at the New York Festivals International Radio Awards in 2012. He was also praised around the world for taking on Billy Bob Thornton in a prickly 2009 interview.



Musical

Shad: A veteran of the hip-hop world, Shad has released four albums, two mixtapes and four EPs. The Old Prince is considered his breakout album, he won the Juno for TSOL, and his most recent release came last year, with Flying Colours. He makes "culturally curious hip hop (that's) eclectic, witty, thoughtful, funny," said music writer and Polaris Prize juror Michael Barclay.

Ghomeshi: As the singer and drummer in the satirical folk-pop band Moxy Früvous, Ghomeshi recorded eight albums. The band released platinum-selling records, and made Ghomeshi a name in Canadian music, but "by the time he started working at the CBC, his music career was kind of a joke," said Barclay.

X Factor

Shad: As yet unproven as a host, Shad has ample proof of his charisma on stage. The MC is confident and intelligent, but not arrogant, Moore said. "He's curious and interesting. He will bring energy to the show," Barclay said.

Ghomeshi: There's no doubt that Q's popularity became entwined with Ghomeshi's own star power. Known as a gracious radio host, he also didn't cower to well-known interview subjects — he once sarcastically corrected Julian Assange for calling him by the show's name. A charismatic man in person, Ghomeshi's confidence shone on air, and the way he connected with guests and drew out their stories undoubtedly helped forge Q's reputation as a cultural powerhouse and a must-do interview.

New show serves up a royal helping of scandal

The Royals. Viewers treated to foibles of fictional regal family

There's little to take seriously in the campy new drama The Royals — a show from E network about the scandalous lives of a fictional royal family.

But amidst all the mayhem, there is at least a modicum of attention paid to portraying proper regal behaviour, which co-star Alexandra Park credits to her "very English" co-star, Elizabeth Hurley.

The Australian actress, who plays rebellious princess Eleanor to Hurley's imperious Queen Helena, says the Austin Powers star acted as a bit of an informal etiquette expert on set, pointing out little-known dos and don'ts as filming went on. "She's like, 'No, we would never have that colour flowers for this event. And you can't wear that,'" Park recalled in a recent phone interview from Los Angeles. "She just knows everything. It's crazy."

Park said Hurley and co-star Joan Collins lend a dash of Hollywood majesty to the over-the-top series, which revels in the ignoble exploits of a royal brood sent reeling when the heir apparent dies suddenly.

Rather than allude too much to the lives of actual royals, Moseley said the series makes a point of charting its own outlandish course. "You have a girl serving food in a French maid outfit — you know what I mean? Which obviously wouldn't happen in the royal palace."

The Royals' debuts Sunday on E network.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Royals debuts Sunday on E network. CONTRIBUTED

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Mindy Kaling ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Mindy Kaling can't do one-night stands

Art, it seems, doesn't imitate life when it comes to Mindy Kaling, who is finding that the wild dating life of her The Mindy Project alter ego is screwing up what men expect from her in her own life.

"When I go on dates there's this expectation that I'm going to have, like, 11 martinis and like, pass out and spend the night really soon. And I think people get a little disappointed because my true self is like, I could never do that, like have a one-night stand," the single actress and writer tells Ellen DeGeneres during an interview.

"Because I have my medications that I have to take at night. I have to be at my house and do my flossing. I have all that stuff."

Hey, maybe some guys are into flossing.

50 cent's son pulls in huge salary for a two-year-old

I never thought that toddlers needed agents, but when you hear how much 50 Cent's two-year-old son, Sire Jackson, pulled down for a modelling contract, you might not think it's such a crazy idea.

"He's got a (modelling) deal now with Kidz Safe," the rapper revealed to Angie Martinez at Power 105 during an interview.

"They paid him a big payment, too."

And by big, he means a contract worth $700,000. No, seriously. That's a lot of binkies.

"He's cute, you gotta pay for it," Fiddy explained. He also assured listeners that the money is going into a trust until Jackson is 18 years old.

Renée steps out in Paris

A chic Renée Zellweger — who attracted attention last fall for a noticeably changed visage — at first hid her face from cameras with Audrey Hepburn-style bangs and large shades Wednesday as she hit Prada's Miu Miu show on the last day of the ready-to-wear collections in Paris.

Inside the show, however, she took off the shades and proudly posed for cameras — maybe she is "happy," after all. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/METRO

Tony says 'I do' to Gaga wedding gig

Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga

Singing at Lady Gaga's wedding would likely be a pretty nerve-racking prospect for even the most seasoned of young musicians, so it makes sense that the chameleon-like singer would go for someone who can handle the pressure.

Enter pal Tony Bennett, who is reportedly on tap to croon at Gaga's upcoming nuptials. "They invited me to do it, and of course I will," he tells Page Six.

Now, you can accuse me of being cynical or unromantic, that's fine, but I can't help noticing that Gaga and Bennett, who released their Cheek to Cheek duets album last fall, are embarking on a tour next month. What a coincidence!

Shooting at Lil Wayne's a hoax

Lil Wayne

An apparent hoax summoned a strong police response Wednesday to the home of rapper Lil Wayne after an unknown caller reported a shooting.

The caller claimed four people had been shot at the waterfront home on an exclusive Miami Beach island.

The responding officers, including a heavily armed SWAT team, found no evidence of a shooting, no victims and no gunman. Rodriguez also said the owner of the home — Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter — was not there at the time.

"We can say for sure it was a hoax," Miami Beach police spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez said. "It's not a laughing matter."

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Flirting with danger at Paris Fashion Week

Stella McCartney's gentle beauty

Hitting the on-trend spot, Stella McCartney sensually explored styles of undressing for fall-winter 2015, with a hint of the corset.

Gone were many of the sporty shapes that are now associated with her esthetic — and in their place were silhouettes, cinched chicly with a belt at the waist or bustier-shaped. Elsewhere, there were voluminous "comfort" shapes on beautiful loose knit sweater-dresses in earth tones, which would fall nonchalantly off one arm — as if in a state of undress.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hermès designer shows powerful debut

For her debut collection at power house Hermès, new designer Nadège Vanhee-Cybulski pared down the house esthetic, to subtle, yet powerful, results. Narrowing down the palette to navy, cobalt blue, ivory, carmine red and flashes of sunshine yellow, the 36-year-old French designer used simple minimalist shapes that drew from Oriental styles to bold effect.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saint Laurent's sex-infused, '80s grit and glam

Fashion's wild child Hedi Slimane upped the sexiness in his latest offering for Saint Laurent, with thick eye makeup, whitened faces, torn tights and a flirtation with the styles of the '80s New Romantics.

The stomping models were still here in this latest chapter of the controversial French-Tunisian's evolution at the house, as were the glittering glam rock fleeces, black boots, black leather minis, and the figure-hugging leopard print cocktail dresses.

It felt like the new Saint Laurent girl had grown up a little bit, moved into the early '80s and discovered sex. A tight black leather zip-up minidress was undone nearly to the crotch, while one truncated bridal dress was twinned with a tuxedo and looked like the heady bride had ditched her man at the altar and gone to the disco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Louis Vuitton's leather and lace

Nicolas Ghesquière, artistic director, manages to mix a certain simplicity with technical expertise. The lace looks like collages on dresses and tops, with just a chain for a belt. Shoulders are highlighted, exaggerated and gathered. Skirts are worn short with pockets, paired with sublime leather jackets, embroidered sheepskin or even zipped blouses. The gold and silver shine is the focus, sparkly but with a simplicity at the same time.

GETTY IMAGES

Kenzo embraces layers and lines

This season's mantra is: Pile it all on. We've seen it notably at Lanvin, Dries Van Noten — and now at Kenzo's draped, voluminous and colourful fashion spectacle.

The collection continued this energy in its vivid splashes of kinetic graphic lines and flashes of contrasting, coloured prints.

But fall-winter was all about the layering.

Geometric lines featured on layered A-line column dresses, topped off with funky asymmetrical poncho-hoods.

Kenzo is all about the cultural fusion. The dark looks featured a nice play of camouflage print on a poncho and assorted jungle pants: If you looked closely you realized the pattern was, in fact, of very un-militaristic flowers.

It was tongue in cheek, and is bound to be a hit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETYY IMAGES

Tips for men looking to dress up their formal look

David C. Wigley wants to help men diversify their approach to formal wear by considering a fresh take on black tie.

Toronto designer David C. Wigley. ALL PHOTOS THE CANADIAN PRESS

"They kind of get stuck in this pigeonhole that you have to always wear a black tux if you're dressing up," said the Toronto-based designer, whose garments are produced in the city.

"I don't really want to take men too far out of their comfort zone, so you'd like to stick to silhouettes that they know — staying with the traditional tailored tux pant and fitted blazer — but using fabrics that you wouldn't typically expect like sequins and bright coloured velvet," said Wigley, who also helms womenswear label Clan Gordon and unisex line Ease.

Here are Wigley's suggestions for men seeking to break the formal wear mould — and look good doing it:

Select a lone statement piece. "If it is a sequined blazer, then that's what the attention is on," said Wigley.

Find a flattering fit."If it's cut in the proper way, it should still flatter your body."

Pick a print. "It's sort of the most versatile thing to work in, especially when you're working with a base of neutrals."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Get your dose of deep-fried goodness

Snack. Wild Ramp and Crab-Stuffed Hushpuppies with Green Goddess Dressing are a Southern U.S. fave

Ingredients

Hushpuppies
- 1/2 lb ramps, cleaned and hairy root ends removed
- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 to 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp kosher salt
- 1 1/2 tsp sugar
- 1 1/4 tsp white pepper
- 1 1/2 teaspoons each baking soda, and baking powder
- 1/4 cup small sweet onion, diced
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tbsp buttermilk
- 1/4 cup lard, melted
- 8 cups canola oil
- 1 1/2 cups fresh crabmeat, picked over for shells, cartilage
- Green Goddess Dressing

Green Goddess Dressing
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup chopped scallions (white and green parts)
- 1 cup chopped basil
- 3/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 tsp chopped garlic
- 2 oil-packed anchovies
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp ground white pepper
- 1 cup sour cream

Hushpuppies

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Line two rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. Bring a saucepan of salted water to a boil. Make an ice bath in a bowl with equal parts ice and water. Put the ramps in a strainer and submerge them in the boiling water for 45 seconds. Remove and submerge them in the ice bath until completely cold. Drain and shake off the water, then drain and dry on paper towels.

3. Chop the ramps into small pieces.

4. Put the self-rising flour, cornmeal, 1 cup all-purpose flour, salt, sugar, white pepper, baking soda, and baking powder in a large bowl and whisk to mix well. Add the onion and half of the chopped ramps and mix well. Lightly beat the eggs in a medium bowl, then whisk in the milk, buttermilk, and lard. Stir the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients.

5. Pour the canola oil into a deep fryer or a large pot and heat it to 350 F.

6. While the oil is heating, blend the remaining ramps in a blender on high, adding just enough water to keep them moving, until very smooth, about 4 minutes. Add the purée to the batter. (Because the size and moisture content of the ramps vary, you may need to add all-purpose flour to batter after frying a test hushpuppy.)

7. When the oil is hot, dip a 1-oz scoop into the hot oil to coat it, then fill the scoop with batter and tap it a time or two to release any air pockets. Hold the scoop 1 inch above the hot oil and carefully drop the batter into the oil. If the batter seems too thin, add more all-purpose flour, whisking until smooth. The desired result is a hushpuppy that is golden brown and crispy on the outside and light as a feather inside. When the batter is correct, carefully fold in the crab.

8. Scoop the batter into the hot oil, without crowding the hushpuppies, and fry, without touching them, for about 1 minute. Then carefully tap the hushpuppies to loosen them if they have stuck to the fryer basket or the bottom of the fryer or pot and fry until golden brown, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer the hushpuppies to one of the prepared baking sheets. Repeat until you've used all the batter. Be sure that the oil returns to 350 F before you put in the next batch.

9. Bake hushpuppies for 4 minutes to ensure tthey are cooked through. Drain on paper towels and serve hot, alongside the dressing for dipping.

Green Goddess Dressing

1. Combine the mayonnaise, scallions, basil, lemon juice, garlic, anchovies, salt, and white pepper in a blender and blend until smooth. Add the sour cream and process just until blended. The dressing will keep in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

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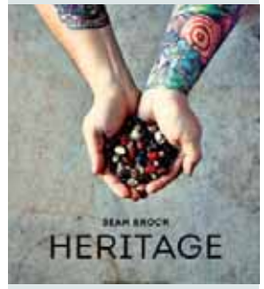
Cookbook of the Week

Southern comfort



Sean Brock is out to preserve the heritage foods of the American south with his aptly titled book, Heritage. The offerings include a blend of comfort food and high-end restaurant food (for when you have more time to cook). The cookbook also includes headnotes that explain Brock's background and give context to his food. Specific recipes include Pickled Shrimp, Crispy Pig Ear Lettuce Wraps, Slow-Cooked Pork Shoulder with Tomato Gravy and Sweet Potato Doughnuts. METRO

This recipe makes about 32 hushpuppies. PETER FRANK EDWARDS

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Black: The dark horse of decor neutrals

Accents. Make any room's colour scheme pop by adding just the right amount of black

There are plenty of practical reasons to decorate with neutral colours.

The shades we think of as neutral — whites, beiges, tans — don't clash with anything. They are calm, soothing and never go out of style.

There's just one problem.

"Beiges and neutrals," says designer Brian Patrick Flynn, "can be super boring."

To solve that dilemma, designers like Flynn have a simple trick for making an entirely neutral room feel as edgy and exciting as one filled with bold colours. Bring in the only neutral colour that isn't bland: Black.

Mixing in the right amount of black accents, print fabrics or furniture can make the white, beige or tan shades in a room look more interesting, putting them in the spotlight.

How much black is too much, and how do you make sure a room done in this colour scheme really pops?

Here, Flynn, the founder of Flynnside Out Productions, and two other design experts — Seattle-based Brian Paquette and Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design in Los Angeles — offer advice on mixing the darkest and lightest of shades for a truly beautiful result.

The light colours that dominate this entryway are set off by the strategic use of contrasting black accents in the table and throw pillows, and the black table. TRIA GIOVAN/COASTAL LIVING/BURNHAM DESIGN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Making black less intense

A sleek, shiny, black dining table or black grand piano conveys drama and elegance. But even if your decorating style is more casual — maybe farmhouse chic or beachy — you can still make black work.

Black "doesn't have to be uptight," says Burnham.

She likes distressed, rubbed finishes, which can make a piece of black wood furniture feel "really farmy or beachy. Really casual. Especially if you use it with oatmeals and pale blues."

Another way to make black less overpowering is to use it on lighter materials, Burnham says.

"Glass and wrought iron, and even driftwood, look great with black finishes," she says. "It takes some of the weight out of it."

Getting your beiges right

Beige and black can be wonderful together, or awful if you use the wrong shade of beige.

"I think most people have an aversion to beige because of the super yellowy, flesh-toned beige that was popular mixed with mauve and brass in the 1980s," says Flynn. "But if you're going to do beige, stick with sand tones that have a lot of white in them. The absence of yellow makes the colour much lighter and even beachy."

Another way to make beige work: Use a mix of pale grey and beige, known as "greige." Flynn says "greige" is also a good alternative to white. It's warmer than a true white or ultra-white, so it doesn't "come across as clinical or sterile."

In one's element

"Glass and wrought iron, and even driftwood, look great with black finishes. It takes some of the weight out of it."

Interior designer Betsy Burnham

Pairing black with brown

Another way to make a neutral room look fabulous, Burnham says, is to add brown as well as black. As with classic, leather riding boots, "a mix of black and brown is really sophisticated," she says.

"Throw some cream into that, and some oatmeal," she says, and you'll have a casually elegant room that's remarkable and yet still neutral.

Paquette is also a fan of that pairing, especially in lighting and furniture: Think of a black leather sling chair with walnut legs, he says, or a lamp that combines black and a deep shade of brass.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Black furniture and black accents bring out the beauty of the softer, neutral shades of white and tan in this living room. BURNHAM DESIGN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fresh and modern

Create a chic mix of black

You don't need an entirely black wall or a solid black sofa. "Sprinkle it around," says Burnham, by adding things like print fabrics that include black.

"There's something about a fabric when it's grounded with a little bit of black in it," she says. "It just becomes chic."

Flynn agrees: "Anytime I can use a black-and-white print, I do," he says, "especially classic prints like checks, plaids and gingham. If black and white is too contrast-y, consider a mix of charcoal, brown and taupe. My closet doors are upholstered in a classic ikat featuring those colours, and although it's traditional in style, it's fresh and modern in application."

For extra punch, Paquette suggests covering throw pillows in a print that includes black, then sewing a solid band of black or charcoal fabric about 1.5 inches thick around the edges of the pillow. "It allows the print to really stand out," he says.

Paquette also loves black metal accents on light fixtures. Consider a black lamp shade on a lamp with an antique brass metal base, he says, finished with a black braided electrical cord. He also likes black metal chair legs, and windows with just the casements painted black. "It's just something that sort of draws the eye in," he says.

Another option: "Art is a great way to use neutrals in a one-of-kind manner," Flynn says. "I'm a huge fan of mixing modern pieces with traditional oil portraits. When you choose dark oil portraits and hang them on light neutral walls, the juxtaposition of the light and the heavy is fantastic."

One thing Paquette avoids: photos in black frames. He thinks they're overdone, and white frames do a better job of spotlighting photos.

White walls and black accents paired with layered sand tones, charcoal and dark brown, create a bedroom that feels fresh and masculine. RUSTIC WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spring calls for a change of greenery

Houseplants. Low-maintenance, affordable, and definitely worth the trouble, plants can be a vibrant decor element

In homes where space and time are precious, the future of the humble houseplant may depend on whether it can earn its keep.

Houseplants that endure tend to be either undemanding succulents, edible herbs, or plants that add enough to a room's ambiance that they're worth some extra effort. And a huge variety of plants are both easy and worth the minimal effort, say plant lovers Tara Heibel and Tassy de Give.

Rooted in Design

Their new book, Rooted in Design (Ten Speed Press, 2015), demonstrates that houseplants can be a beautiful and creative element in a home's decor.

Houseplants connect the city dweller to the natural world and remind us of that symbiotic relationship, write Heibel and de Give, founders of Sprout Home, an indoor landscaping store in Chicago, Ill. and Brooklyn, N.Y.

"A room filled with plants can be calming and inspirational as well as incredibly personal and expressive. Even aloe, a common household plant, can exude complexity and style when displayed creatively," they write.

Philodendron "Brazil" climbing vines. MARIA LAWSON/RAMSAY DE GIVE/PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE/TEN SPEED PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dividing the home into sectors — wall, ledge, floor, air, table, kitchen and terrariums (including some for aquatic plants) — the authors suggest ways to present and care for a variety of indoor greenery.

"It's easy to get pigeonholed into certain ideas about plants — that they always have to be in a certain kind of container or always be on a shelf or on the floor — and you have to help people break out of that. Many people now have a really small living environment and think they don't have room for plants, but hanging plants on a wall doesn't take up any space at all, and it adds a lot to the decor," Heibel says.

Short on space? Plants are happy to hang out on a wall

"It's easy to get pigeonholed into certain ideas about plants — that they always have to be in a certain kind of container or always be on a shelf or on the floor — and you have to help people break out of that. Many people now have a really small living environment and think they don't have room for plants, but hanging plants on a wall doesn't take up any space at all, and it adds a lot to the decor."

Rooted in Design co-author Tara Heibel

Upcycled containers

Unlike many other glossy design books, this one shows images of what look like actual, lived-in homes — several photos include cats — with some startling yet down-to-earth upcycling suggestions for plant containers, including mason jars, decorative cookie tins, and even glass electric-meter boxes and unused table lamps (with a cascading plant where a lamp shade might have been).

Old picture frames become stunning displays of maintenance-free dried moss (step-by-step instructions with full-colour images included), and pieces of driftwood are dramatic mounts for ferns. Helped along by a few small nails or hooks, philodendron and bougainvillea can be trained to grow across an indoor wall, dramatically spanning anywhere from five to 25 feet.

Macramé plant hangers and terrariums, features from a generation ago, are back, but with a more contemporary feel.

"Our macramé is cleaner, more streamlined and more contemporary-looking," says Heibel. "And the terrariums have much more use of graphic material and colour and texture and shape."

The book's final section, The Roots, gives a plant-by-plant glossary of possibilities, with troubleshooting suggestions.

A plant that's hard to kill

"The most frequent question we're asked is to recommend a plant that's hard to kill," Heibel said. "That definition differs from person to person. Maybe one person goes out of town for a month and another waters too much. People often don't really think about care and maintenance before putting a grand indoor landscaping plan together. We want to make sure that what you're planting lives."

Two common misperceptions about houseplants, the authors say, is that they all require roughly the same care (they don't) and that they'll always look like they do when first purchased.

"You might look at a young fern in a shop and think it's perfect, but you need to know that ferns grow and you'll need to do some pruning," Heibel says. "And people buy a succulent that's cute and small, but then it grows a really long stalk or does other funny things. That's actually part of the beauty of it, but it sometimes comes as a surprise."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So many ways to plant one on

Houseplants can be practical, too, serving as walls or screens, or providing soothing aromas. Well-chosen plants can be considered an alternative to cut flowers, or viewed as tiny works of art.

- Trays of miniature succulents in various shapes, colours and textures "can be irresistibly small and sweet and inexpensive, like candy," Heibel said.

Cascading vines of euphorbia milii, rhipsalis, hoya, sedum, and aloe. MARIA LAWSON/RAMSAY DE GIVE/PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE/TEN SPEED PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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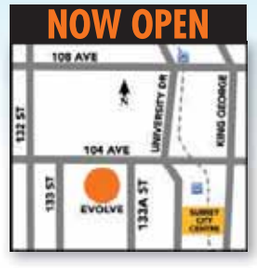

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A fiesta of handcrafted colour and style

On trend. The look and feel of Latin American crafts enliven home decor

The exuberant colours, textures and patterns of Latin American crafts are injecting an easy, comfortable and fun esthetic into home decor.

The look includes textured rugs, throws that evoke serape motifs and furniture with an authentically hand-turned appearance.

House & Home magazine recently featured designer Heidi Merrick's Los Angeles home, with cowhide rugs, Bolivian "frasada" blankets used as daybed throws, and spicy hues like orange, marine blue and pink.

Ralph Lauren Home's La Hacienda fabric collection includes traditional florals and graphic woven prints in earthy reds and turquoise with punches of black, white and sun-baked brights.

It's not all about the fiesta, however. Mexican Modern is a look characterized by contemporary furnishings and quiet colour, with one or two artisan pieces as counterpoints.

New Yorker Katherine Ponte works with indigenous Brazilian artisans to bring sustainably produced traditional crafts to a wider market through her e-shop, Ecostasy. "I'm focused on the esthetics as well as the cultural and environmental context of each piece," she says.

This ekeko, carved in cedar wood, is a traditional Andean character said to bring happiness, love and prosperity. NOVICA.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

She offers bowls made by hand-tying banana fibre and recycled paper. Tropical vines and herbs are fashioned into trays by the people of the Mamiraua Reserve, in the Amazon rainforest. Slabs of ipe and pequia, two South American hardwoods, are transformed into organic coffee tables. (ecostasy.com)

Novica's fair-trade craft e-shop features pieces found at local markets throughout Latin America (and in developing countries worldwide). The site not only offers artisans a platform to sell their waves; it also provides marketing and technical support. The craftspeople control the creative, production and pricing aspects, Novica says.

Finding a charming and beautifully carved cedar statue at a Lima, Peru, market, for example, Novica's co-founders, Roberto Milk and Mina Olivera, searched the countryside for the craftsman. Johnny Chamba's little "Ekeko," or good luck token, is now on the site.

A round wall mirror of butterflies and flowers by Peruvian master Gelacio Girón is crafted in the tradition of Cajamarca. NOVICA.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alejandro Chávez crafted this a mirror frame rooted in Andean tradition with four different vignettes. NOVICA.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Also at Novica: Peruvian artist Alejandro Chavez uses ceramic plaster to make tiny detailed "retablos" or dioramas depicting daily life in the Andes. Farmers harvest prickly pears; merchants sell blankets and masks in a market. The figures are mounted in wooden chests and can be hung on the wall.

And Zosimo Laura weaves soothing, rustic hues of cotton into a striking, contemporary, bird-print tapestry.

From Brazil, you'll find Elizabeth and Eduardo Prado's fused glass-bead bowls in an emerald green they say was inspired by tropical rain.

Leandro Mantesso's black-and-white photographs of Andean topography and daily life are evocative, and Andre de Miranda's woodcuts are modern art with heart.

Guatemalan ceramic artist Lilyan Benecke's offers winsome Margarita daisy-strewn tea sets and plates. Fellow Guatemalan Patricio Coroy crafts alder wood into serving trays which are lined with hand-loomed traditional prints under glass (novica.com).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peruvian tapestry by Zosimo Laura. NOVICA.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another ekeko by Peruvian artist Johnny Chamba. NOVICA.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At other retailers

- Wayfair's got a subway-stop-style sign listing Mexico City train stops. A hinged Safavieh trunk is clad in a kilim textile. From designer Grace Feycock for Uttermost there's a set of two Carilla medallions in distressed coral ceramic. And Yumanmod's sharp 314 ottoman is covered in a teal-and-ivory, South American-patterned textile that would work well in a contemporary family room. (wayfair.com)
- Urban Outfitters has some well-priced woven rugs that fit the style vibe. (urbanoutfitters.com)
- Check out Etsy.com and other online sources for Talavera pottery, in items ranging from dinnerware to sinks.
- Deny Designs offers California artist Deb Haugen's Mexican Surf Trip pattern on a range of items including art prints and shower curtains and pillows. (denydesigns.com)

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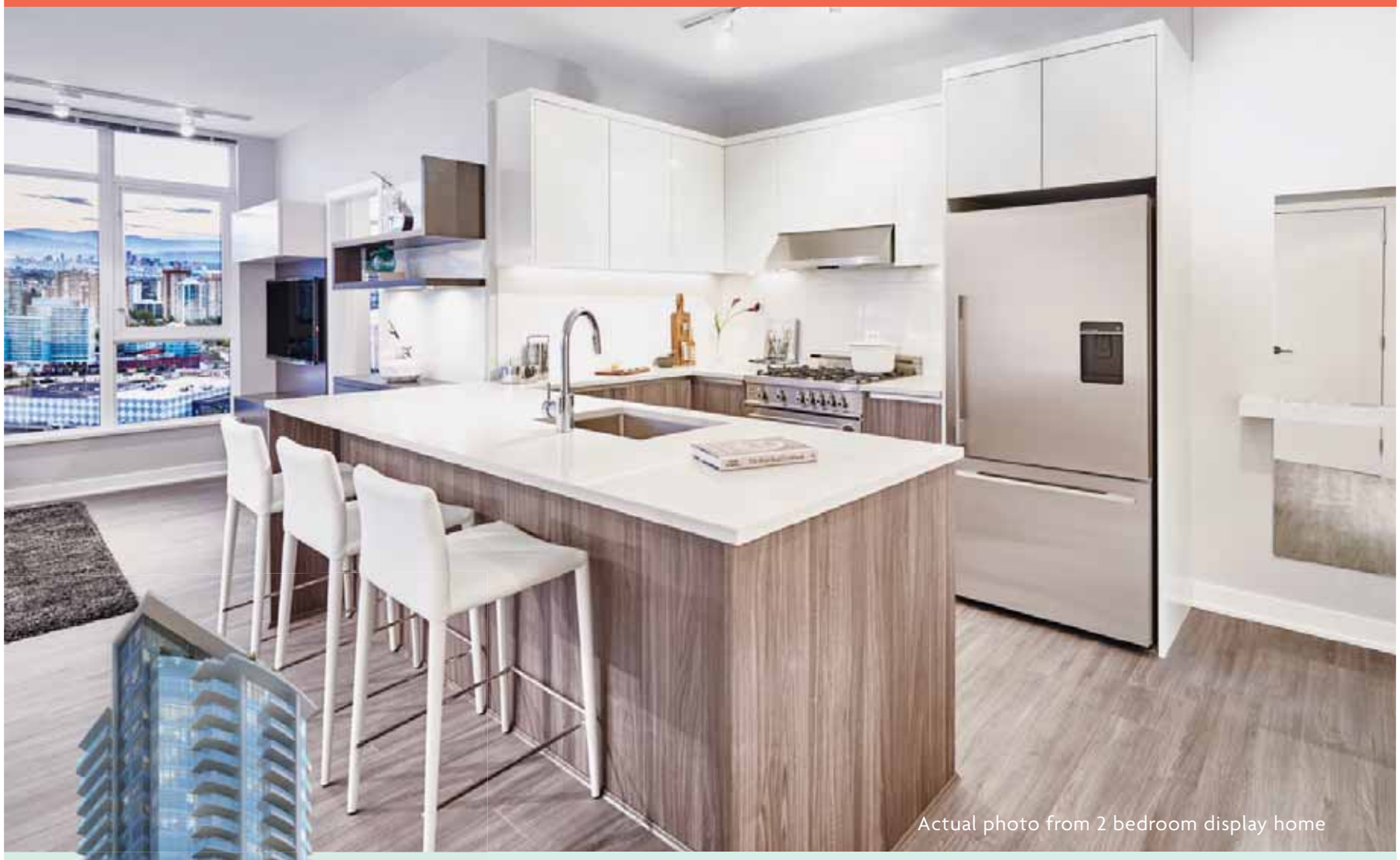

Actual photo from 2 bedroom display home

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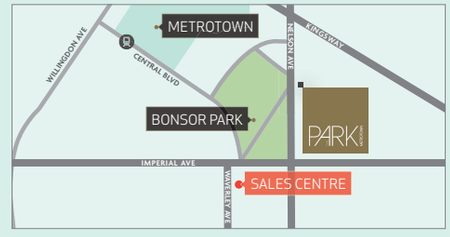

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These little lights, let 'em shine

Lighting can make or break the look and mood of your home, from uninviting over-lit rooms to paintings that disappear because there's no light. Every room needs three sources of lighting: accent, task and ambient. Here are the best forms of these lights and how to use them in a room

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Accent lighting

Accent lighting creates a moody environment and helps to brighten dark corners and highlight art. It's great as a night light to welcome you when you come home late or when you don't want your house completely dark at night. Highlighting a plant, sculpture or painting an easy way to add a spark of light to a room without totally illuminating it.

Create drama: Shine a light through your houseplants to create an exotic atmosphere. Canarm Theo Adjustable Lamp, $30, HomeDepot.ca

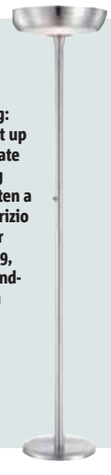
Wall hung: Highlight a picture or simply wash a wall with light. Reynolds Library Bookcase Sconce, $199, PotteryBarn.com

Task lighting

Directed wall hung: Read in bed without getting light in your eyes. Morgan Ivory Sconce, $179, CrateAndBarrel.com

Task lighting is directed light to help you with a task such as reading, preparing food or working on hobbies. A swing-arm reading lamp or under-cupboard kitchen lights are prime examples of task lighting. This type of lighting is best planned after you move into your home and know where you need specific lighting.

Under counters: Brighten your countertops in the kitchen with under-counter lighting. Westek Plug-In Cabinet LED Puck Light Kit, $16 per light, Lowes.ca



Uplighting: Shine light up to illuminate the ceiling and brighten a room. Fabrizio Steel Floor Lamp, $269, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

Flush-mount ceiling fixture: Illuminate a kitchen or bathroom with overall light. Sienna Flush Mount, $525, Elte.com

Ambient light

Ambient lighting is an overall bright source used in spaces like workshops or laundry rooms. Every room should have them as they are useful for brightening the entire room for cleaning chores or parties. This type of lighting usually comes in the form of an overhead flush-mount light fixture or a torchiere-style floor lamp that directs light onto the ceiling, reflecting it back into the room.

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Pick a perfect pink piece

This season's living room furniture comes in generous and inviting shapes and wears subtle shades of pink, from peach to pale rosewood. These items are ideal for creating a cosy space to curl up in

AFP

Create a quiet, private space with two-tone collection

All about protection and comfort, the Log and Doolly collection by Désio consists of several folding screens made with Bultex foam, which can be used to create private spaces that are isolated from exterior noise. Matching two-tone sofas and chairs complete the cosy ambiance (from approximately $1,610). DÉSIO

Made of wool, cotton and foam, the Nubilo sofa by Constance Guiset for Petite Friture resembles something between a cloud and a pastry. Macaron-shaped cushions in various sizes and colors are stacked along the sofa for "maximum comfort," according to the designer (approximately $3,280-$4,070). PETITE FRITURE

Pink may not be everyone's favourite colour, but it is always welcome in small touches. One way to add a splash of the colour is cheerful sofa cushion Smanate from Ikea in pink and white gingham (approximately $6). IKEA

For Ligne Roset, French designer Inga Sempé designed Beau Fixe, a two-person sofa that calls to mind a retro airplane seat, only much softer. Sempé was inspired by her memory of a beach chair. To resurrect this item as a comfortable and elegant sofa, she combined a metal structure with a soft comforter (Price available on request). LIGNE ROSET

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SPORTS 4

A 'peaceful' approach in goal

Canucks prospect report. Thatcher Demko prepares to backstop Boston College in playoffs

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

A little time off certainly doesn't hurt.

In the case of Vancouver Canucks prospect goalie Thatcher Demko and the Boston College Eagles, they were afforded an extra week off in the Hockey East playoffs after a bye in the first round. They're back in action in the quarter-final round, when they will host Vermont in a best-of-three series this weekend.

Game 1 of that series goes Friday.

After appearing in 31 games this season for Boston College, and for the U.S. team at the world junior championships, where he had the third-best save percentage in the tournament, Demko admitted the break was a nice way to get rejuvenated.

It's now game on versus Vermont.

"They always give us a good test," said Demko, now in his sophomore season, in a phone interview.

At six-foot-four, Canucks prospect goalie Thatcher Demko covers a lot of area in goal. MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

The Canucks drafted Demko in the second round, 36th overall, of last year's NHL draft. Ten years before that, they selected another Boston College product, Cory Schneider, in the first round at 26th overall.

The comparisons of Demko to Schneider, now with the Devils, are out there.

Given Demko's age and stage in his development, those comparisons might be a little premature.

For now, Demko continues to work on his game.

Last July, while in town for the Canucks prospects camp, Demko was able to form a working relationship with goalie consultant Dan Cloutier.

One of Demko's greatest strengths — beyond his size, as he stands six-foot-four and 195 pounds — is his athleticism, but he admitted that he was able to get physically stronger last summer, which helped him get square to the puck quicker.

There are times when the athleticism is forced to kick in.

"Then when I need it, I rely on it."

As he put it, getting square has allowed him to be "more peaceful in the net."

Follow Cam Tucker on Twitter @camtucker_metro

Playoff race continues

The Canucks will play the L.A. Kings at Rogers Arena on Thursday.

- It's the first of three meetings between these teams in the final 16 games of the season.
- The Canucks, at 80 points, are second in the Pacific Division, but only three points ahead of the fourth-place Kings.

MLS. Whitecaps' 2014 first-round pick works back from torn ACL

Hunched over, catching his breath, Andre Lewis has just completed eight laps in about eight minutes around the outside of the training surface of UBC's Thunderbird Stadium.

At the same time, his Vancouver Whitecaps teammates go through their paces in preparation for Saturday's upcoming road match against the Chicago Fire.

Lewis, working to come back from a torn anterior cruciate ligament, hopes to join his teammates in training at the end of next month.

Selected seventh overall in the 2014 MLS SuperDraft, Lewis has yet to play a game for the Whitecaps, minus appearances in last year's pre-season.

Last August, while with the USL Charleston Battery, he suffered the torn ACL and underwent surgery soon after.

At the age of 20, Lewis says he's never experienced an injury like this before. Now the middle of March, he believes that by May, he'll be able to get back into game action.

"It's very difficult. Very tempting. There's a lot of temptation there. I think I can play but I know I can't," said Lewis, a skilled attacking midfielder.

"I keep saying to the coaches and the medical staff that I think I'm ready. But they know what's best for me and I just have to trust them."

There is light at the end of the tunnel. It's slowly getting closer.

He's been able to get back in the gym. He stressed the importance of rest in his return.

"I need the ball at my feet, you know?" said Lewis.

"Doing all this running, it's boring at times. But I know it's good for me and I just have to do it." CAM TUCKER/METRO

* Source: jobbank.gc.ca

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may have to rethink your plans over the next few days as Saturn begins a retrograde phase. Don't give up on them completely though.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Take a look at your financial position and decide what steps need to be taken to improve your long-term security. Your main priority is to cut back on unnecessary expenses.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Know your limits and stay within them. No matter how far or fast you travel it's likely that something will bring you back to earth with a bump.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It seems you've finally realized that you have been wasting a lot of time and energy on something that is not worth the effort. It will fade in importance over the next few days.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Saturn, the great taskmaster of the zodiac, is urging you to be realistic about your aims and modest about your abilities.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The time has come to admit that a partnership is not working out as well as you expected. It's no big deal, and it is certainly not your fault. Some people you can do business with and some you cannot.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today, check once, check twice, then check a third time. Whatever you are planning you must make sure you have covered all the angles because a small detail could trip you up.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will get what you deserve to get today, nothing more and nothing less. Now that you know that you won't be inclined to complain if what you get falls short of expectations.

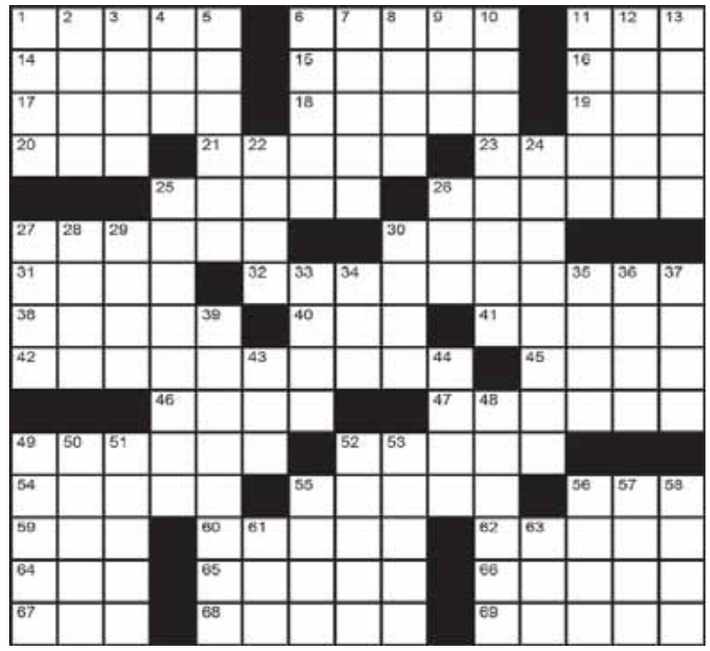
Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Saturn in your sign warns life is not as straightforward as you seem to think. What happens over the next few days will encourage you to plan ahead.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are convinced that the roof is going to fall in on you. So it will come as a nice surprise today when something wonderful happens instead.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have to re-think certain ambitions over the next few days. New information will come to light that will make you realize there is more work involved than you imagined.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't get hung-up on long-term career plans. Yes, you can and must keep moving in your favoured direction but there is no need to be so rigid about it.

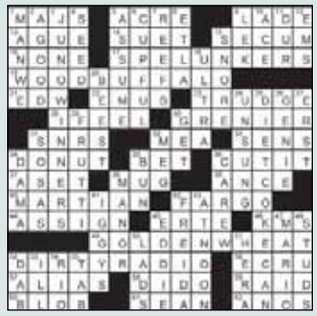
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. "The Brothers __" (2005)
6. One-__ (Biased)
11. Speed __.
14. Mythological weeper
15. Restaurants: "Can I see _ __ please?"
16. "Gimme __ '_'!" (O-T-T-A-W-A cheer-starter)
17. "I now pronounce you..." site
18. Carnivore's dish, __ __ lamb
19. Drivel
20. Ms. Leoni
21. Ms. Kudrow's
23. Senses
25. Late night host Mr. O'Brien
26. Truly
27. Tourist attractions
30. Victoria-born artist Emily
31. In this spot
32. Nissan vehicle
38. Susan's "All My Children" role
40. Old Rome's deuce-ace
41. Harry __ (Sarnia, Ontario born hockey analyst)
42. Canadian fashion brand founded in 2002: 2 wds.
45. Canadian chanteuse Celine
46. Ireland
47. Iago's wife in Shakespearean tragedy Othello
49. Flying flickerers
52. Humdinger
54. Llama catcher
55. A famous Canadian Joe
56. "__ and Away" (1992)
59. Fall Boy link (Rock band)
60. Caffeine nuts
62. Royal adornment
64. Beatles: "_._. _ Love You"
65. Fennel-like flavour
66. Open the compressed computer file
67. 'Racket' suffix
68. Lion mane parts
69. Positioned oneself to pray

Down
1. Irritating fly
2. Vex
3. Whit
4. Commerce grad's letters
5. Bordeaux grape/wine
6. Spicy sauce
7. "_ __ business!"
8. Li'l grad-earned thingies
9. Roxy Music's Brian
10. Toronto subway station
11. Suit jacket flap
12. Counting everything: 2 wds.
13. One of Beatrix Potter's rabbits
22. Police dept. rank
24. Canadian singer The Weeknd's current hit tune off the 'Fifty Shades of Grey' soundtrack album: 2 wds.
25. Classic game
26. UK military fliers
27. FOX News anchor Mr. Smith, to pals
28. Yesterday: Italian
29. Smile
30. __ seeds (Health food store purchase)
33. $uffix to 'Billion'
34. __-for-tat
35. __ Eireann (Lower House of the Irish legislature)
36. H.G. Wells people
37. Blue Rodeo song
39. Northwestern Ontario town, the 'Canoeing Capital of Canada'
43. MGM's motto, __ Gratia Artis
44. At hand
48. Whale skin/blubber treat in the Arctic
49. Gradient
50. PVR remote button
51. Active
52. Uninterested
53. Lets up
55. Cut short
56. Unnerve
57. Seed's jacket
58. Transfixed
61. Judi Dench/Cate Blanchett movie, "Notes __ _ Scandal" (2006)
63. Stopover accommodation

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	9	1	2	3	5	6	7
2	3	7	5	9	6	4	1	8
5	6	1	7	8	4	3	2	9
7	5	4	9	1	2	6	8	3
3	2	6	8	4	5	7	9	1
9	1	8	3	6	7	2	5	4
8	4	5	2	7	1	9	3	6
6	9	3	4	5	8	1	7	2
1	7	2	6	3	9	8	4	5

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